

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:)
) **Group Art Unit [parent app.]: 2643**
 Ronald A. KATZ)
) **Examiner [parent app.]: S. Woo**
 Serial No.: Not yet assigned)
)
 Filed: Herewith)
)
 For: VOICE-DATA TELEPHONIC)
 INTERFACE CONTROL SYSTEM)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

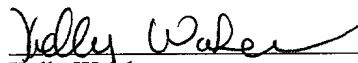
Dear Sir:

Preliminary to examination, please amend the application as indicated below. With this preliminary amendment, Applicant is submitting new claims 22-29 (see clean version of claims below), which correspond to claims in a prior application (serial no. 08/306,456) that were canceled by Examiner's amendment, to expedite allowance of the prior application. The claims were under final rejection and the amended scope urged by the Applicant required further consideration by the Examiner. Applicant is continuing prosecution of those claims here. The claims that were canceled in the prior application were 252, 258, and 313-318. Also, the Examiner is requested to cancel claim 1, without prejudice.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 C.F.R. §1.10)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as 'Express Mail Post Office To Addressee' (Label No. EL833491383US) in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

June 13, 2001
Date of Deposit


Kelly Wash

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claim 1, without prejudice.

The new claims 22-29 are indicated below.

--22. (New) A method for controlling voice or data or both types of communications for use with a communication facility including remote terminals for individual callers, wherein said remote terminals include a digital input device for providing digital responsive signals, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving caller number identification signals indicative of at least a portion of a caller's number from said communication facility;

cuing select ones of said remote terminals to prompt selective actuation by an individual caller of said digital input device to provide responsive signals;

selectively identifying said responsive signals from said select ones of said remote terminals as digital data signals or digital control signals, wherein certain of said responsive signals can serve as digital data signals, digital control signals, or both, said responsive signals including signals indicative of a customer identification number for the individual caller that may be utilized to access a file for said individual caller;

testing at least a portion of said customer identification number for approval;

recording said caller number identification signals from said communication facility as additional data for said individual caller;

transferring a call from said individual caller to an attended terminal and displaying at least a portion of data stored in said file to an operator at said attended terminal under control of said responsive signals indicative of said customer identification number and displaying at least a portion of the customer identification number wherein the operator at said attended terminal is capable of entering data to facilitate completion of the call from said individual caller; and

confirming with said individual caller certain of said data stored in said file for said individual caller.--

--23. (New) A method for controlling voice-data communications with a system operating a format for use with a communication facility including remote terminals for use by certain individual callers, wherein said remote terminals include a digital input device for providing digital responsive signals, said method comprising the steps of:

interfacing said certain individual callers with an interface unit of said system operating the format;

prompting said individual callers via a voice generator to provide responsive signals representative of identification data via said digital input device of said remote terminals;

receiving from said individual callers responsive signals representative of caller identification data;

comparing said caller identification data received against a file on said individual callers to determine if said caller identification data received is already of record;

utilizing said caller identification data received to access the file to locate other data associated with said caller identification data;

transferring at least certain of said individual callers to an attended terminal; and

displaying at said attended terminal at least a portion of the other data associated with the caller identification data; and

confirming with said individual caller certain of said data stored in said file for said individual caller.--

--24. (New) A method for controlling voice-data communications for use with a communication facility including remote terminals for individual callers from a pool of individual callers, wherein said remote terminals include a digit input device for providing responsive signals, said method comprising the steps of:

cuing via a voice generator select ones of said remote terminals to prompt selective actuation by certain callers from said pool of individual callers of said digit input device to provide responsive signals;

receiving responsive signals from the individual callers including caller credit card number data and caller expiration date data entered via the digit input device;

testing the caller credit card number data and the caller expiration date data for approval;

receiving at least certain of caller number identification signals as identification signals;

transferring certain of the callers to an attended terminal and displaying at the attended terminal certain of the data entered by the callers during the course of calls; and

confirming with the callers certain of the data stored in the file for the callers.--

--25. (New) A method according to claim 24 wherein the testing step involves testing the caller credit card number data against a negative list of credit card numbers.--

--26. (New) A method for controlling voice-data communications with a system operating a format for use with a communication facility including remote terminals for use by certain of said plurality of individual callers, wherein said remote terminals include a digital input device for providing digital responsive signals, said method comprising the steps of:

interfacing said certain of said plurality of said individual callers with an interface unit of said system operating the format;

prompting said individual callers to provide responsive signals via said digital input device of said remote terminals;

receiving from said individual callers responsive signals representative of caller identification data;

transferring at least certain of said individual caller to an attended terminal based on a condition initiated by an individual caller;

the condition automatically causing a display associated with the caller identification data including at least a portion of the caller identification data to appear at the attended terminal; and

confirming with the caller, at least certain of the data stored for the caller.--

--27. (New) A method according to claim 26, wherein the display is automatically caused at the attended terminal subsequent to an individual caller entering an incorrect account number as caller identification data.--

--28. (New) A method according to claim 26, wherein the display is automatically caused at the attended terminal subsequent to an individual caller entering an invalid account number as caller identification data.--

--29. (New) A method according to claim 26, wherein the display is automatically caused at the attended terminal subsequent to an individual caller entering a specific code to request an operator.--

REMARKS

By this preliminary amendment, Applicant is canceling claim 1, without prejudice, and submitting claims 22-29 to continue prosecution of claims (252, 258, and 313-318) that were rejected in the prior application (serial no. 08/306,456). The claims were previously rejected in the prior application under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) over Barger. With respect to claims 22, Applicant notes that Barger at the very least, does not disclose the claimed combination with the step of receiving "*caller number identification signals indicative of at least a portion of a caller's number from the communication facility.*" With respect to claims 23, 28, and 31, Applicant submits that Barger at the very least does not disclose the claimed combination including the step of "*confirming with the caller, at least certain of the data stored for the*

